

European Week of Sport *ABILITY LINK*KIT PROJECT* NEEDS ASSESSMENT MEETING



EWOS Ability Link*Kit Project Partners from left to right: Philip Huterer (European Paralympic Committee), Dirk Steinbach (SPIN Sport Innovation), Stefka Djobova (National Sport Academy Sofia), Ben O'Rourke (SPIN Sport Innovation), Shauna Kearney (Institute of Technology Tralee), Matthias Guett (SPIN Sport Innovation), Ulrike Wernert (City of Karlsruhe).

VIENNA, 26/06/2015 The European Paralympic Committee (EPC) hosted the EWoS ABILITY LINK*KIT PROJECT Needs Assessment Meeting at the EPC Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The meeting, which was held on 25 and 26 June 2015, began the process of identifying how best the ParaSport sector in Europe can link to the European Week of Sport.

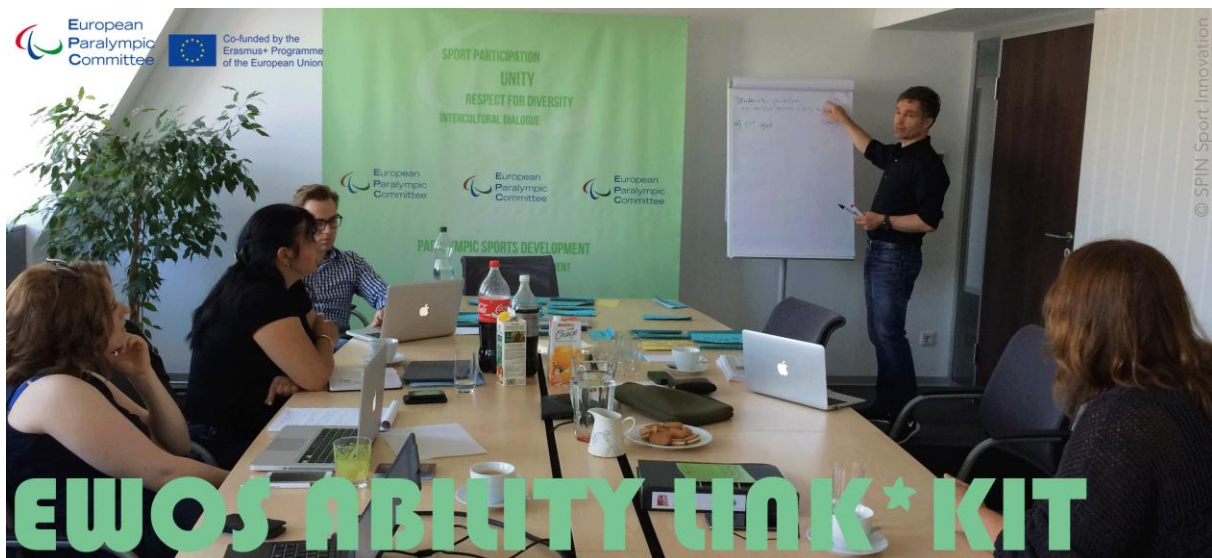
The project is co-funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ programme and will use the platform provided by the European Week of Sport 2015. It will develop a toolkit for the organisation of awareness-raising events that turn these often 'one-off activities' into higher day-to-day ParaSport participation rates.

As part of this process, the meeting brought together the European Paralympic Committee as project organiser, and the City of Karlsruhe (DE), the Institute of Technology Tralee (IRL), the National Sports Academy Sofia (BG) and SPIN Sport Innovation (DE) as partners of the action to begin specifying the methodology for the collection of existing expertise and good practice. Once established, the EPC will ask its member organisations, as well as the European Cities for Sport and Physical Activity, for their contributions to the development of the toolkit through a short online consultation.

Matthias Guett, sport development expert of SPIN Sport Innovation, said: “ParaSport in Europe is already doing great work through awareness raising events. The project recognises this and hopes that through the EWoS Ability Link*Kit we can bring together the existing examples and create a toolkit, which benefits the entire sector and the broader European sports landscape”.

Alongside the collection of good practices, the project – which runs until October 2016 – also includes the hosting of a ‘test event’ around the European Week of Sport 2015 in Eger, Hungary. It will showcase the ParaSport sector and test the applicability of the approaches and practices identified through the project.

EPC President John Petersson explained the significance of the project to the ParaSport sector: “ParaSport has been recognised through this project as key stakeholders in European Sport. The European Week of Sport is a fantastic opportunity for the sector to showcase itself whilst seeking to increase regular participation.”



The **EWOS ABILITY LINK*KIT PROJECT** is an initiative developed in close cooperation between the European Paralympic Committee and SPIN Sport Innovation. The project is undertaken in the light of the European Week of Sport (EWoS) 2015 and it is key to sustainably connect the Para-Sport sector to this new European flagship event for sports promotion. The vision is that – step by step – the EWoS ABILITY LINK*KIT will help national and local disability sport stakeholders to contribute to future EWoS events and that these local events will also create sustainable higher day-to-day participation in sports and health enhancing physical activity for and with people with a disability.

The project partnership includes the European Paralympic Committee, SPIN Sport Innovation (DE), City of Karlsruhe (DE), University of Applied Sciences Salzburg (AT), Hungarian Paralympic Committee, Movigo Sport e.V. (DE), Institute of Technology Tralee (IR), Bulgarian National Sports Academy, and Sport & Citizenship (FR).

The **EUROPEAN WEEK OF SPORT (EWoS)** is an initiative developed by the European Union for everyone – regardless of age, background or fitness level – that aims to encourage citizens from every walk of life to #BeActive! A flagship event in Brussels showcases the inclusive and creative environment of sport from all over Europe, and it identifies where progress is needed to inspire European citizens to #BeActive. Furthermore, EWoS encourages and supports national weeks of sport and initiatives in Europe, such as it is done through the EWoS ABILITY LINK*KIT PROJECT.

The **EUROPEAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (EPC)** is composed of forty-nine National Paralympic Committees and the European branches of four disability-specific International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled. EPC’s mission is to promote and contribute to the development of sport opportunities and competitions for European athletes with a disability as part of the world-wide Paralympic Movement. It ensures the growth and strength of the Paralympic Movement through the development of the European National Paralympic Committees and (as an ambassador) supports the activities and reflects on the needs of all EPC members.

For **FURTHER INFORMATION** please contact EWoS Ability Link*Kit Project Manager Ben O’Rourke (SPIN Sport Innovation) on e-mail (info@sport-innovation.de).